



ARRL Member
Club Since 1974



The Groundplane

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Transmitter Hunting

Transmitter hunting, or Radio Direction Finding (RDF), is used to locate the exact location of a radio transmitter broadcasting a signal. RDF can be used to help track down stolen cars, search for persons in distress, and locate downed aircraft when an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) has activated.

T-hunting, also known as "Fox Hunting", is a Ham activity that is both fun and educational. If you are interested in learning more about this

activity, you are in luck. Every 1st Saturday of the month, there is a beginner's T-Hunt that begins at 5:00 p.m. (6:00 p.m. during daylight savings time). Although this activity is designed to be easy, many seasoned T-Hunters participate and enjoy helping Hams new to the activity learn more about it.

My first experience with T-Hunting was quite an eye opener. Not knowing what to bring, I came with just my HT. I hooked up with a Ham who was very focused on

being the first to find the hidden transmitter (AKA the fox). He showed me the tools he used for finding the fox: a handy talky radio, maps, compass, a protractor, Doppler antenna array in his car, directional hand-held antenna, offset attenuator, markers, pencils, and a notepad.

We started the journey at the top of a hill on Zapotec Drive. My guide then swept the area with his hand-held antenna and HT tuned into the fox frequency.

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The Tri City VE Group Team

Homeland Security Hams

Take off your shoes. Unbuckle your belt. Remove the keys and coins from your pocket. Yep, you've entered airport security.

Men and women wearing Homeland Security emblems and polished badges scrutinize your every move.

But what does this have to do with ham radio?

In January, our Tri City VE Group was contacted by the Oakland Airport Transportation Safety Administration (TSA). Several of those very official looking people have ham licenses, and due to attrition, they needed more.

On January 19th, our VE Group became a mobile unit. Greg Miller, WY6P, Robin Yee, KI6YTA, Dan Curtis, N6WN and I ventured to the TSA headquarters building which is located off the airport in the Oakland Tribune building.

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The Tri City VE Group Team

TSA manager, Yogi Prakash, KI6SCI, better known as Yogi, met us.

Yogi drove us through the secured area of the airport, past a mast antenna that he was very proud of and to the employee entrance.

Upstairs in Terminal One, we over-looked the baggage area so next time I'm there I'll know to look up!

As soon as we began to set up, four anxious candidates descended upon us. They had been spending the afternoon taking online exams.

Three of the four earned their Technician License with broad smiles and handshakes. The one who didn't pass will resume studying, and be ready for another time.

Those who passed were given our Congratulations Kits including an HRO catalogue and an invitation to attention SBARA as well as a free membership.

It was a unique experience for our team to help the TSA and to see a hidden side of the airport. We look forward to more "mobile" opportunities.

Rita Derbas KI6SSQ

Newark ARES/CERT

Next Meeting



The next Newark ARES/CERT meeting is the usual 2nd Thursday of the month, 10-Feb-2011, 7-8PM, at the Newark Fire Station #28 at Thornton Ave and Ash St.

We will be discussing the use of Smartphones like the Droid and iPhone in a disaster. Smartphone technology adds a new dimension to the ways we can communicate, even after a disaster like a major earthquake. Light refreshments will be served.

Newark CERT has an ARES section on their new website. Tena KI6LDI and Wayne KI6LDZ have generously provided the initial funding for the new website, and Lisa KI6GDS has

done a great job in designing the website. If you have suggestions or things you'd like to see posted on the website, please contact me and I'll forward the information along to them.

Visit www.NewarkCERT.org for more information.

February Keynote—A Brief Intro

Christopher Tate, N6WM, is the Assistant Section Manager for ARRL East Bay, Contesting and DX. His presentation will focus on contesting: what is a contest exchange, operating techniques, and contest differences.

He is the principle and founding Member of Livermore Amateur Radio Group Endeavors (K6LRG): he is involved in maintaining club contesting site: www.largeradio.org

He is a partner in a San Francisco Bay Area based Wireless Internet Service Provider, delivering broadband Internet using radio technology to those who otherwise would not be able to get it.

He enjoys all amateur bands, and particularly enjoys contesting from big gun stations



such as the K6LRG contest station (of which he is a founder), and at N6RO and will pretty much answer anyone who calls CQ NA hi.

He is a Veteran US Naval Hospital Corpsman, (9 years) and served among many other places as an Aviation Medic with Carrier Air Wing 5 including a complete tour in the Middle East during the first Gulf War.

EM-COM Info

Tri-City ARES

Web site: www.fremontares.org

Contact: Joe Pistrutto, N3CKF

CERT Comm—Fremont

Web site: www.fremontcert.org

Contact: Jim Thomas, KI6TCE

CERT Comm—Newark

Contact: Mike Berke KI6EGL

Am-Tech Day

February 19, 2011

8:00am — 6:00pm

10 Hours of Fun Amateur Radio
Activities in Menlo Park one Satur-
day a month!

Keynote to be announced.

For more info, visit:

www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday/

Visitors Welcomed!

Bill, WB9YVM, is doing well and recuperating. However, he is laid up at Park Center Rehab room 136-2 for a while. Stop by and say hello and help keep his spirits high.

Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Transmitter Hunting

He took a compass reading at the point of the strongest signal. With this reading, he sketched a bearing on his map and picked the next location for taking another reading. Using the talk-in frequency, he shared his bearings with other hunters to help triangulate the fox.



When I first looked at all of his equipment, I had no idea how they would play a part in the hunt. But as we proceeded to home in on the fox, I became very educated on the art and science of the hunt. I highly recommend attending a T-Hunt at least once. You may find this activity a fulfilling experience as I did.

For more information about T-Hunting, a good place to start is

www.qsl.net/nz0i/equipment/equipment.htm.

I had no idea how they would play a part in the hunt.

Or simply swing by Zapotec Drive in Fremont (near Joshua Place) on the next first Saturday of the month. The talk-in frequency is typically 147.015+ PL 103.5.

T-Hunts are sponsored by LARK and SBARA.

Repeaters and Nets

Repeaters

WA6PWW: 147.015+ 600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW: 223.900- 500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW: 442.600+ 5Mhz, PL 107.2

K6AIR: 441.525+ 5Mhz, PL 123.0

Nets

9 am Talk Net: M-F, 9am-11am, (N6NFI) 145.230- PL 100.0

25-25 Net: Wednesdays 8:00 p.m. 144.230MHz USB

ARES Net: Tuesday @ 7:30pm, 147.015 + PL 103.5

FARS Net: Thursday @ 8:00pm, (N6NFI) 145.230- PL 100.0

Slow Speed (CW) Net: Tue/Sun 7:30 pm, 144.175 (+/- KHz as needed)

Youth Net: Saturdays, 2pm, (N6NFI) 145.230- PL 100.0

SBARA

Mailing Address
Box 8401
Fremont, Ca. 94537-8401



Founded 1974

Our meeting location is at:

Hurricane Electric, 60
Mission Court Fremont, Ca.

Come to the meeting and
bring your; Go Pack, HF
Rig, HT, and Antennas!!

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

<i>President</i>	Sarah Thompson, NQ6K
<i>Vice President</i>	Albert Wu, KJ6CHW
<i>Treasurer</i>	Don Amyx, N6DA
<i>Secretary</i>	Jim Thomas, KI6TCE
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Jim Thomas, KI6TCE (pro-tem)
<i>Webmaster</i>	Umesh Ghodke, K6VUG
<i>Quartermaster</i>	Dan Curtis, N6WN
<i>Program Facilitator</i>	Rita Derbas, KI6SSQ

The Ground Plane — KU6S

<http://www.sbara.org>

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA

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